Anti-India activities in Bangladesh

273. SHRI R PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned 'Time: Dhaka hub of anti-India activities" published in the Hindustan Times dated the 14th October, 2002;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government have taken up/propose to take up the matter with the Government of Bangladesh for providing base for carrying out anti-India activities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) The Government of India is aware of reports that agencies inimical to India's interests, including the ISI, are misusing the territory of Bangladesh for their anti-India activities. Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister also publicly referred to the issue of presence of Indian insurgents and ISI activities in Bangladesh on 7th November, 2002.

(c) The Government of India has been regularly taking up these security-related issues with Bangladesh at different levels through diplomatic channels and institutional mechanisms existing between the two countries such as Foreign Secretary-level talks, Home Secretary-level talks, Joint Working Group, Director General-level talks between BSF and Bangladesh Rifles, etc.

(d) The Government of Bangladesh has assured us at the highest level and more recently during the visit of Bangladesh Foreign Minister in June, 2002 that it would not allow its territory to be used for activities inimical to India's interest.

(e) Does not arise.